

Shorter Notes

STEM CROSS-SECTION PRINTS AID IN IDENTIFYING HORSETAILS.—Stem cross-sections are often required for accurate identification of horsetails. These are difficult to obtain from dry and brittle herbarium specimens. I have found a method for making a printed record of the cross-section of a horsetail specimen quickly and with simple materials. It must be done before the specimen is pressed, but may be affixed to the herbarium sheet later as an accurate record of that aspect of the specimen and may be examined with the naked eye or under magnification. When a horsetail specimen is ready to go into the plant press, a sharp, transverse cut is made across the center of a mature internode. One of the cut surfaces is inked with a fountain or felt pen. Several imprints of the surface can then be made on smooth, non-absorbant paper (the field label if possible). Rough paper will make details difficult or impossible to see, and absorbent paper will change the print's dimensions. Although the first prints may be inked too heavily, others will be perfect, and some will be too light. Unless a good labelling system is used to associate the prints with the particular specimens, the prints should be kept with the specimens in the press. The best prints should be pasted near the specimen label when the specimen itself is mounted.—BARBARA J. GUDMUNDSON, 5505 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

PSILOTUM NUDUM SPREADING NORTHWARD.—In 1942 the "Whisk Fern," *Psilotum nudum*, was recorded in Brown and Correll's "Ferns and Fern Allies of Louisiana" as having been collected growing wild in a greenhouse, Krack's Nursery, north of New Orleans, having apparently been accidentally imported with potting soil. A recent publication (*Sida* 3: 525. 1970) by Dr. G. Rhodes now reports the species as growing wild in four Louisiana Parishes—Terrebonne, St. Mary, Vermilion, and Lincoln. In the last named the species is some 250 miles north of any previously known locality. It is thus apparent that this plant is spreading northwards rapidly, perhaps from wild plants occurring to the eastward in Alabama or Mississippi.—C.V.M.